

re: RM-8626

Esteemed Commissioners,

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I would like to tender my opinions regarding the legislation proposed by Mr. Fred Maia that would prohibit all one way amateur transmissions on the frequencies below 30 MHz. Although many of his arguments are valid, it seems rather a drastic step to ban all one way broadcasts below 30 MHz, when so many positive and proven benefits have and are being derived by these services.

Although I consider Mr. Maia's proposal to be extreme, his point's are valid regarding the potential abuse of this privilege and the possible future overcrowding of the amateur bands below 30 MHz. The question then is, do we create regulations over a situation that may some day but does not at present exist? If so, how can the services presently benefitting the amateur and non-amateur communities, that are provided by HF one way transmissions, be continued. I have three suggestions.

The most viable solution, in my belief, is to continue to trust in the amateur communities long standing practice of practicing self-restraint. I acknowledge the fact that relaxed licensing standards are allowing in larger numbers of undisciplined individuals so in the future legislation may be necessary. If so, those problems can best be addressed when they are happening; when all aspects of the problem, that may need to be known to draft proper legislation, have been made apparent. Until that time trust in the amateur practice of self discipline.

The second choice would be to set up specific frequencies that will be used only for the purpose of broadcasts that fall within the legal parameters as now defined, and that all on other frequencies below 30 MHz those type of broadcasts would be prohibited. This would necessitate more efficient time sharing techniques than are at present in operation. I would suggest that a volunteer co-ordinator be appointed from organizations with at least 5000 members, and ones that have no broadcasts below 30 MHz. This would avoid conflicts of interest. Stations wishing to start broadcasting appropriate transmissions on those frequencies would make application to the co-ordinator who would then assign them a time slot for their transmissions. If the co-ordinator were to receive more applications than time permits, they would make application to the F.C.C. for another frequency. The co-ordinator would supply the Commission with a current broadcast schedule, so that anyone else using that frequency could be appropriately fined.

The final option would be to honor Mr. Maia's petition and ban these transmissions below 30 MHz. To then ensure the availability of services that presently exist, a new radio service would be created. It would be an Amateur Broadcasters Service, where all people licensed to the new service could experiment with broadcasting techniques, for non-pecuniary benefits. These stations would not be allowed two-way communications, nor could they be owned or operated by a commercial entity. Not only could the benefits of the present one way transmissions be continued, but the world would be enriched by a wider variety of interesting programming as this service would not be limited to broadcasts regarding amateur radio related topics only. If this option were employed, it could be reasonably expected to see a resurgence of interest in the hobby of Short Wave Listening and expanded markets for receivers and type accepted transmitters. Only technically competent applicants should be permitted in this new service.

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These are the three most viable options that I envision that would address the concerns of Mr. Maia and still maintain the integrity of the services presently in use. I thank you for your efforts and concerns regarding this and other amateur related subjects, and for taking the time to hear my comments on this matter.

Respectfully,  
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